

## **MINUTES OF THE JUNE 17, 2014 MEETING OF THE MUSLIM AMERICAN ADVISORY COUNCIL**

The Muslim American Advisory Council (“MAAC” or the “Council”), pursuant to notice duly given, held a Meeting on June 17, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. in the James R. Thompson Center, 100 West Randolph Street, Suite 16-100, Chicago, Illinois 60601.

### **MAAC Members Present:**

1. Sohair Omar, Co-Chair
2. Dr. Bambade Shakoor-Abdullah
3. Sikirat Adigun (via audio conference)
4. Dr. Irfan Ahmad (via audio conference)
5. Murad Moosa Bhaidani (via audio conference)
6. Mumtaz Champsy (via audio conference)
7. Clyde El-Amin
8. S. Jafer Hasnain (via audio conference)
9. Mohammed Kaiseruddin (via audio conference)
10. Dzafer Kulenovic (via audio conference)
11. Dr. Sevil Kutay
12. Tariq Malhance
13. Salim Al Nurridin (via audio conference)
14. Dr. Mohammad Zaher Sahloul (via audio conference)

### **MAAC Members Absent:**

1. Kareem M. Irfan, Esq., Co-Chair
2. Tariq El-Amin
3. Eboo Patel
4. Aisha Qadeem
5. Ahmed Rehab

### **Guests Present:**

Hani Atassi  
M. Faisal Elkhatab, Arab American Family Services  
Nia Odeoti-Hassan, Office of Illinois State Senate President John J. Cullerton  
Matthew Ramadan, One Chicago Community Development Corporation  
Mark Zajac, Office of the Governor

## **I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Co-Chair Omar called the Meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

Mr. Zajac called the roll. There being five (5) Members physically present and nine (9) Members participating via audio conference, a quorum was met.

## **II. Co-Chairs' Remarks**

Co-Chair Omar noted that, following the May 20, 2014 meeting, Imad Rahman resigned from the Council, and both Najjar Abdul-Musawwir and Safaa Zarzour were no longer Members of the Council.

She went on to update the Council on her and Mr. Malhance's meeting with the leadership of the Illinois State Board of Investment regarding the addition of a socially responsible fund to the investment selection of the State of Illinois Employees' Deferred Compensation Plan, per the Council's recommendation, which was very well-received and will be discussed further at the Illinois State Board of Investment's upcoming board meeting.

Co-Chair Omar also invited all Members to attend the Iftar Dinner hosted by Governor Quinn at the Executive Mansion on July 2, 2014.

## **III. Adoption of the Minutes**

Having a quorum, Minutes of the Meeting held on May 20, 2014 were taken up for consideration. Mr. Kaiseruddin made a motion for the adoption of the Minutes. Dr. Kutay seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## **IV. Discussion of the Council's Third Semiannual Report to the Governor**

Co-Chair Omar, along with the Economic Development Committee and the Legislative Affairs Committee, presented draft recommendations in the policy areas of economic development, public safety, and education. Discussion ensued.

Following the discussion of draft recommendations by all Members, it was decided that both Co-Chair Omar and Mr. Zajac would finalize the third semiannual report, which would be distributed to all Members during a 24-hour review period. Any editorial changes would be made as deemed necessary and any substantive changes would be deferred to the next report. Mr. Malhance made a motion to approve this process. Mr. El-Amin seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## **V. Report by the Legislative Affairs Committee**

There was no report by the Legislative Affairs Committee.

**VI. Report by the Economic Development Committee**

Co-Chair Omar announced an employment workshop at the University of Illinois at Chicago Forum hosted by the Chicago Urban League on June 18, 2014; as well as a job fair for immigrants and refugees at the James R. Thompson Center hosted by the Governor's Office on July 21, 2014.

**VII. Report by the Communications Committee**

Co-Chair Omar noted the success of the Council's "Cultural Sensitivity Guide for State Employees", but emphasized the need for greater commitment to implement cultural sensitivity workshops for state employees. Dr. Bambade suggested that a representative be designated to work on this assignment. Mr. Ramadan volunteered to initiate this process.

**VIII. Other Business**

None.

**IX. Public Comment**

Co-Chair Omar reminded the Members about the Governor's Iftar Dinner at the Executive Mansion on July 2, 2014.

**X. Adjournment**

Dr. Bambade made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Malhance seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The MAAC Meeting adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

Minutes submitted by:

Mark Zajac  
Chief of Staff Dunn Fellow  
Office of the Governor